

ABSTRACT
PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF OLIGONUCLEOTIDES

5 A process for the synthesis of an oligonucleotide is provided in which an
oligonucleotide is assembled on a swellable solid support using the phosphoramidite
approach in the presence of an activator, wherein the activator is not tetrazole or a
substituted tetrazole. Preferred activators are pyridinium, imidazolinium and
benzimidazolinium salts; benzotriazole and derivatives thereof; and saccharin or a
saccharin derivative. Preferred swellable solid supports comprise functionalised
10 polystyrene, partially hydrolysed polyvinylacetate or poly(acrylamide).